

(No. 22.)



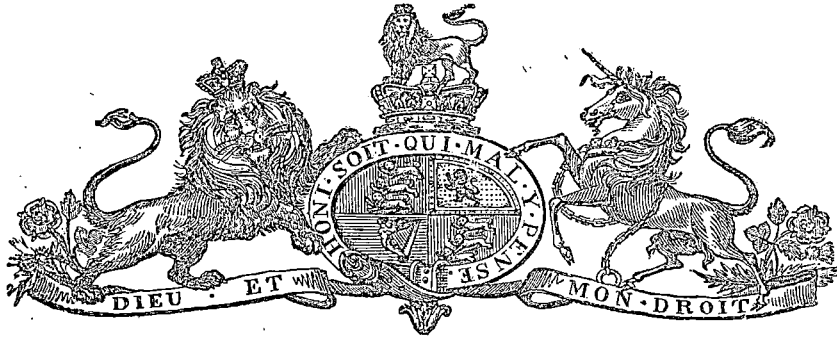
1862.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N.

AGAINST CONTINUANCE OF *AD VALOREM* DUTIES.

Presented by Mr. Wedge, and ordered by the Council to be printed, 31 July, 1862.



To the Honorable the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Traders and Inhabitants of the City of Hobart Town.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT, in pursuance of an Act passed in the last Session of the Parliament of Tasmania, a Duty of Ten per cent. is levied on the true and real value at the Port of Entry of all Goods, Wares, and Merchandise not exempted as per Schedule annexed to the said Act.

That, while your Petitioners regret the necessity for increased Taxation, they nevertheless hereby express their readiness to contribute thereto, in such manner and on such principles as may cause all classes of the Community to fairly and equitably bear their part in raising the increased Revenue required.

That your Petitioners consider that increasing the Revenue by adopting a system of levying *ad Valorem* Duties, as enacted by the Act (No. 15) passed in the last Session of the Parliament, is objectionable in principle, and is calculated to oppress and impoverish, rather than protect and encourage, trade and commerce.

That the system of *ad Valorem* Duties, as at present levied, does not press equally on such classes of the Community as are able and willing to pay their fair proportion towards the Revenue of the Colony, but operates too heavily on the trading portion of the Inhabitants, and, if persisted in, will materially affect the best interests of Tasmania, by restricting its commerce, and considerably checking its inter-Colonial trade.

That your Petitioners believe the working of the above-recited Act, during the short period it has become Law, will be found to have been irksome, both to the Government and to the Importers and Traders who have been affected thereby.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to take the whole subject of raising the required Revenue into consideration, and introduce such measures as may render unnecessary the further continuance of levying *ad Valorem* Duties.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[*Here follow 200 Signatures.*]